

## Inquiry into the protections within the Victorian Planning Framework

Ms Anne Tyson

**Organisation Name:**  
**Your position or role:**

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

Heritage Victoria and the Heritage Council value places of state level significance, but fail to some extent in the area of local heritage: in encouraging and facilitating municipal authorities, along with heritage and history organisations, individuals and the community, to value and conserve local heritage.

A new emphasis on local heritage is necessary.

Some ways this could be done are:

- a. Provision of a system of grants for protection, conservation and upkeep for places/objects with local heritage significance. The Living Heritage Grants Program is commendable, but doesn't help conserve locally-listed places.
- b. Financial support for heritage advisory services by subsidised funding and some mandating of a basic level of such services in each municipality. Some Councils have no heritage advisor, and the time fractions for most are laughable,
- c. Financial support for and encouragement of heritage studies where studies are non-existent, where there are gaps, or where updating is needed eg to incorporate twentieth century heritage.
- d. Support and encouragement of Councils to develop a Heritage Strategy, and one that is taken seriously.
- e. Education and information programs for local Councillors and Council planning staff
  - Councillors are often local business people, and see conflict between heritage and progress/development, privileging the latter, unless they are persuaded of opportunities for tourism and increased visitor numbers (and re the latter, sport has the advantage in the eyes of such Councillors and is preferred).
  - Further, understanding by local Councillors and Council staff of heritage processes, particularly the notion of significance and the various types of significance, is often lacking.
  - Councillors often have no commitment to heritage and think it peripheral, or just for the interested few.
  - Support and encouragement for Councils to establish volunteer Heritage Advisory Committees, and some lauding of those already in existence.
  - Support for local historical societies, often the major repository of heritage knowledge in their local area.

More difficult and long-term objectives:

Awareness-raising and preservation of both cultural landscapes and intangible heritage.  
Should the general public have access to HERMES?

Heritage Victoria and the Heritage Council need to regain some of their old collective passion for the heritage they are charged to protect for all, remembering the past battles fought to gain our current system.

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**  
**File2:**  
**File3:**

**Signature:**

Anne Tyson